connected with the modernisation of the Rourkela Steel Plant has been awarded to a private contractor, of Bhilai for Rs. 12.5 crores which is 500 per cent of the approved cost;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 'augmentation of Tarkera Pump House' a sub-package under Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation project called for revision of scope by increasing the additional capacity of make-up water supply (including the township water requirement) from about 600 cubic metre/hour (DPR stage) to 3250 cubic metre/hour. The additional capacity sought to be created over the one envisaged earlier was nearly 440 per cent higher. This involved some support facilities which were not required in the earlier scheme. This revision of capacity was necessitated from the long-range point of view, and a scrutiny and analysis of various other modernisation packages.

(c) The increase in the estimate is due to the increase in the scope of work.

Increase in the prices of flats by DDA

441. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA has recently increased the prices of MIG, LIG and Janta flats;

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the prices of the flats; if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of increase in the prices is approximately 25 per cent for MIG and LIG flats and 20 per cent for Janta flats.

The increase in the cost is due to increase in the cost on the labour, material and premium of land based on cost of acquisition and development.

(c) and (d) Since the cost of flats is worked out on 'No profit no loss' basis, there is no proposal to reduce the price of flats.

New schemes of Delhi Development Authority

442. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start any new self financing scheme of Delhi Development Authority flats during the current year;

(b) whether Government also propose to start a scheme of Delhi Development Authority flats for retiring persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Applications are periodically invited from retired/retiring public servants who are already registered and they are given priority in allotment. However, in view of the existing backlog there is no proposal at present to start a new registration scheme.